



Nebraska Weather and Crops

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service

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Agricultural Summary: For the month of January 2006, unseasonably warm temperatures of 10-15 degrees above normal were experienced statewide, challenging record highs set in 1933. The warm temperatures allowed producers to begin spring fieldwork and limited stress on livestock. Supplemental feeding to livestock was minimal due to the warm weather that kept corn stalk fields open. Lack of moisture has become a concern for many wheat and alfalfa producers.

This release is based on data from FSA county directors, county extension educators, NOAA, and the High Plains Regional Climate Center. County comments and reports can be found at:

http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Nebraska/Publications/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/index

For those receiving an e-mail text version of this publication, a complete version including precipitation and soil temperature maps can also be found at the above address.

Weather Summary: Depth of snow at the end of January was absent from the majority of the state, with only the Panhandle and Southwestern districts reporting minimal cover. January precipitation was light with most of the state receiving less than one half inch. Since September 1, accumulated precipitation is below normal for all areas of the state except the northeast.

Field Crops Report: Wheat conditions were below month ago levels and rated 1 percent very poor, 6 poor, 41 fair, 50 good, and 2 excellent. This is also below last year's condition of 56 percent good or excellent. Hay and forage supplies rated as adequate or surplus across the majority of the state.

Livestock, Pasture, and Range Report: Cattle and Calves condition rated 7 percent fair, 74 good, and 19 excellent, slightly better than year ago levels. Calving was underway at 7 percent complete with calf losses reported as average or below.

The following are comments from Nebraska's FSA County Executive Directors and County Extension Educators:

NORTHWEST

BOX BUTTE: Warm, dry weather.

NORTH CENTRAL

HOLT/BOYD: Unusually warm weather is raising some concerns.

NORTHEAST

ANTELOPE: Producers are working in the fields due to temperatures above normal and no frost in the ground. Cattle are on corn stalks and because of mild temperatures, supplemental feeding is minimal.

DAKOTA: A lot of stalk bales and stacks put up this year have not been used at present. Two months of unprecedented warmth have resulted in excellent conditions for all livestock.

CENTRAL

DAWSON: Conditions are dry in this area with little moisture since the post Thanksgiving blizzard. Some stalk shredding and fertilizer application has been done. Many farmers are concerned with the water and rainfall situation.

EAST

DODGE: Some fertilizer has been applied and some tillage has been done. The weather has been excellent for livestock.

MERRICK: Great weather for the few producers who had cows calf early. Producers are concerned about the wheat & rye pastures greening up during this warm January which will make it susceptible to winter kill if cold weather returns.

SOUTHWEST

CHASE: Temperatures have been above and moisture below normal this winter.

HAYES/HITCHCOCK: Very warm and windy January weather in our area. Weather has been good for calving and use of corn stalks. Wheat needs moisture and cover.

SOUTH CENTRAL

HARLAN: Dry, warm conditions persist. It is great for outside work, but does not look promising for needed moisture.

PHELPS: Warm, dry weather is starting to show on the wheat crop. Calving has been going well due to the warm weather.

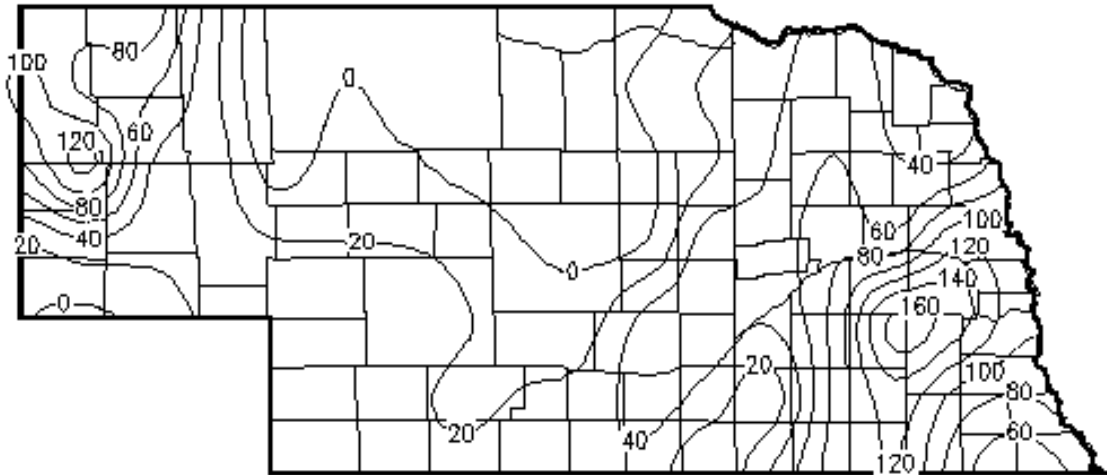
WEBSTER: Wheat conditions haven't changed much but will start deteriorating soon without rain. It is very dry here again. Calving is just starting for the most part. No reports of unusual calf mortality.

SOUTHEAST

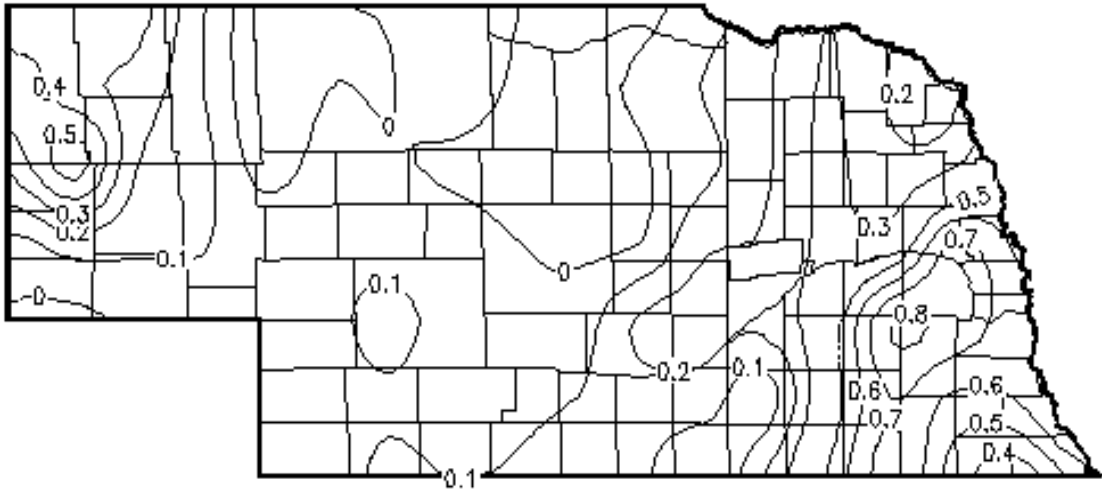
GAGE: Very concerned about wheat and alfalfa breaking dormancy and the potential to damage these crops with sharply cold weather.

RICHARDSON: Fieldwork continued through January. The mild weather conditions have been great for hay supplies and calving.

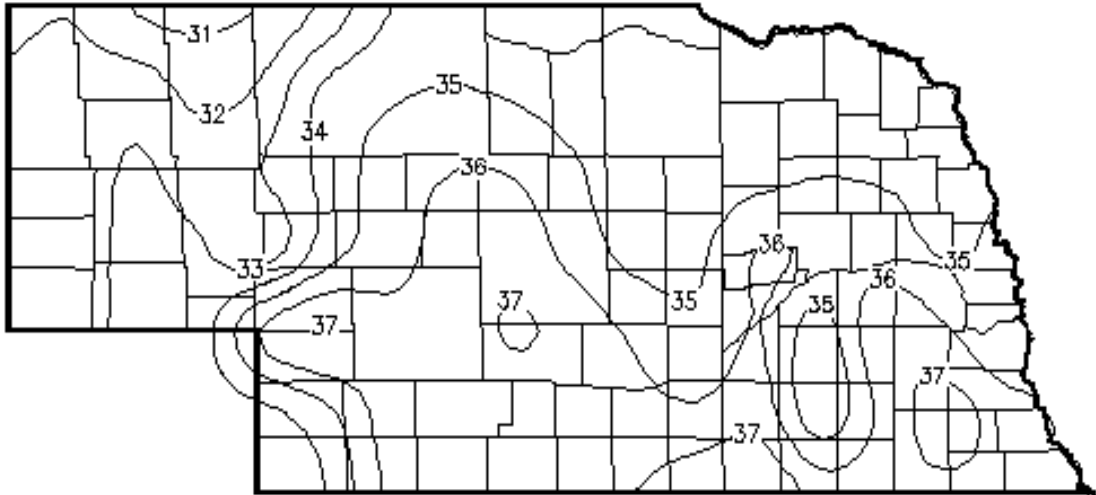
PRECIPITATION AS PERCENT OF NORMAL FOR JANUARY 2006¹



PRECIPITATION IN INCHES FOR MONTH OF JANUARY 2006¹



SEVEN DAY AVERAGE TEMPERATURE AT THE FOUR INCH DEPTH UNDER BARE SOIL
JANUARY 30, 2006 - FEBRUARY 5, 2006¹



¹ Source: High Plains Regional Climate Center and Nebraska State Climate Office